

Joshua 5

v1

"their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel."

- The testimony of The Lord was heard and believed. The report had gone before them. It wasn't mere speculation or reputation.
- Oh that there was such a testimony of reality amongst God's people today. A testimony of authority, power and victory. Oh that the church (in general) would be circumcised in heart, separated from the world to The Lord's way and glory.

v2-3

"the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time."

"And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins."

- The Lord said and Joshua did it. There was no question or reasoning... Just obedience.
- They removed the flesh covering. They separated themselves from the rest of the world. They marked themselves as belonging to a covenant with God.
- Age, clan, race, position... It didn't matter. ALL were circumcised!
- We are also to remove the "flesh covering" and be circumcised in heart unto to The Lord.
- *Deuteronomy 10:16 "Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked."*
- *Romans 2:29 "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit"*

v5+7

"Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people that were born in the wilderness... them they had not circumcised."

"because they had not circumcised them by the way."

- They did not see circumcision as necessary. Another outward showing of hearts that were not separated unto The Lord to love Him.
- However it is worth noting that The Lord has not challenged them for that and commands circumcision here without rebuke.

v6

"till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD"

- The cost was severe. The consequence for disobedience was not skipped.
- We underestimate how severe the consequences of sin are. Sin will always bring death and separation. Consequences these days may seem more subtle or perhaps we are more ignorant that we realise. But the fruit of sin is death and all that we sow will bear fruit. May we fear God and fear sin.
- *James 1:15 Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.*
- 40 years of wandering, never coming to the promise; 40 years of dealing with their flesh; 40 years of pride, ungratefulness, faithlessness, doubt, lust; 40 years of challenging God; 40 years of putting self before God; 40 years of never seeing the promise/victory/rest/peace that was promised! May we learn to deny our flesh and truly surrender and submit to Jesus only and always.

v9

"This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you"

- The fleshly man had died. The flesh covering had been removed.
- Those born in the wilderness did not long after Egypt. They were not tainted by its Gods or memory. They had a different heart.
- Egypt and the flesh were finally outwardly and symbolically removed.

v10

"and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho."

- They were in no fear and no rush. Eating and feasting before the enemy.
- *Psalm 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies:*
- The fear of The Lord so impacted the enemy that they dare not attack and stayed retreated within their cities.
- They remembered, glorified and honoured the Lord and His great deliverance. They remembered His salvation!
- A time to remember... A time to set the heart right before The Lord, to glorify Him and remember His love, His tender mercies and provisions.

v11

"And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day."

- They're first meal in the land promised to them.
- 40 years of wandering, looking, hoping, following.... And now they were finally in that land and enjoying its produce.

v12

"And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land"

- That time for manna was over.
- CGIL: "There being now no further need of it... The ceasing of the manna, which was a type of Christ, may signify the cessation of Gospel ordinances, in which Christ is held forth as food for his people. These are to continue till all the spiritual Israel of God have passed over the river Jordan, or death, even until the end of the world, and then to cease."
- *Psalm 78:25 "Man did eat angels' food"*
- They had been sustained from Egypt until the promised land. The Lord had been their provider and their provision. They were strong and healthy by the goodness, care and love of The Lord.
- They could not have survived the wilderness in their own strength. It was The Lord who sustained them. The Good Shepherd was all their life.

v13-15

"with his sword drawn in his hand"

"as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come."

"Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon you stand is holy."

- Joshua lifted up his eyes. He was not looking at himself, or the people, or the circumstance... He lifted his gaze.
- Joshua saw The Lord with his sword drawn. Joshua would surely have been aware of some powerful presence/aura from the human form of Christ but he approached in confidence, boldness and courage. Joshua did not fear man!!
- It is at the revelation of God that Joshua fears and falls down to worship. When he realises who is before Him! It is only when we have a revelation/understanding of who The Lord is that we will truly fear Him.
- The Lord does not fight for men. He fights for His own name, His own glory and His own purpose. He is not on the side of men to suit their needs and do their bidding! He will fight for the glory of The Lord! May we remember this as we pray and move forward in faith.
- As we look to walk into this promised land we may see and know that The Lord has gone before and that He will fight for His name sake. If we will obey and trust our God then we can be found fighting alongside The Lord. If we move in our own path we will fail and fall.
- The devil hates God's people and was doing all He could to destroy them. However, the devil was powerless before God's people in battle as they fought in obedience. It was when they let the devil in that they brought ruin on themselves.
- The Israelites never "come against the devil". They never fight "the enemy" directly. The Devil never presents himself before the people in all out war. The devil can only influence fallen, sinful man. The situation is the same today.

((- There is something to consider... The Lord's presence was on earth and He fought. We see this a number of times in scripture. Why? And who/what battles was The Lord fighting? Look more into this))